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HISTORY

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GRAFTON, VIRGINIA

Compiled by Joe Snyder -  
Church-historian

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1954-1958

In the summer of 1954 the section of York County consisting of Yorktown, Marlbank Farm, Waterview, Dandy, Seaford, Grafton and Dare was canvassed by Mr. Richard S. Ruggles for Norfolk Presbytery to determine if there were enough Presbyterians in the area to support a church. The canvass was encouraging and all interested persons were invited to meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Cowles Hogge in Dare in September, 1954, to undertake the formation of a church.

In addition to the Hoggles, those attending this first meeting were Mrs. Stephen Sheriff, mother of Mrs. Hogge, Mr. Harry L. Hoover, Mr. Thomas W. Athey, Mr. and Mrs. Joe D. Snyder, Jr., Mr. W. Vance Nunn, Mrs. R. L. Hunter, Col. and Mrs. L. L. Shook, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Knox, Mrs. Herbert M. Dickinson, and three members of Presbytery's Church Extension Committee, Dr. John Grey, minister of the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Howatt E. Mallinson, minister of the Wythe Presbyterian Church, and Dr. W. J. B. Livingston, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Hampton.

This first meeting was followed by others. The old Courthouse at Yorktown was obtained for use as a meeting place, and Dr. J. L. MacMillan, pastor emeritus of the Norfolk First Presbyterian Church, was secured to conduct services.

The first worship service of what was to become Yorkminster Church was held at 11:00 o'clock Sunday morning, January 9, 1955. Music was supplied by Mrs. Harry Hoover, playing a borrowed portable organ. Dr. MacMillan preached on the subject, "The Church".

There were fifty-six persons in attendance at this first service. After the service, Mr. W. Cowles Hogge was elected moderator of the group, Mr. Joe D. Snyder, Jr., treasurer, and Mrs. Herbert M. Dickinson, secretary.

A Sunday School was begun the next Sunday with approximately thirty persons in attendance. Mr. W. Vance Nunn served as superintendent.

Dr. MacMillan conducted our services for six weeks, but could continue no longer. The pulpit was then supplied on alternate Sundays by Mr. Carl K. Pollhein, a first-year student at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, with other students including Mr. Richard S. Ruggles and Mr. Robert Davis, and other ministers including Dr. J. A. Christian and the Rev. S. K. Emurian. During this period, Mrs. Pollhein came each Sunday with her husband and gave valuable assistance in our Sunday School.

The Presbytery, on the recommendation of the group, purchased a six-acre tract of land on Route 17 for a church location.

Mr. Pollhein was called to work with our congregation for the summer of 1955. We hoped that with his full time devoted to the task we could progress to the point where we could be organized before the summer was over. Arrangements were made whereby Mr. Pollhein would live at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Cowles Hogge in Dare, and Mrs. Pollhein would join him there on weekends.

Mrs. Pollhein spent her vacation here early in the summer to assist in the

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Vacation Bible School. Mr. Pollhein started a Wednesday night prayer service immediately, meeting in member's homes. The Book of Revelation was taught by Mr. Pollhein in the prayer meetings.

The summer brought tragedy as one of the children of the Sunday School, three-year old Andy Hogge, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Hogge, Jr., was drowned. Also there was sorrow in the congregation when Mr. Herbert M. Dickinson, husband of our secretary, and faithful attendant at our Sunday School and worship services, died after a brief illness.

Mr. Pollhein visited throughout the area during the summer and our work was growing all the time. It was decided by the group to petition Presbytery at its July stated meeting to appoint a commission to organize Yorkminster Presbyterian Church. A delegation consisting of Messrs. Pollhein, Hogge, Snyder, Knox and Nunn appeared before Presbytery to make the request and Presbytery appointed the commission and set the date for the organization.

Yorkminster Presbyterian Church was officially organized at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, August 14, 1955, by the commission from Norfolk Presbytery. The Rev. John Grey delivered the message of the day. The Rev. Gray had suggested the name, "Yorkminster" to the group, and a motion was made from the floor that the church be so named and the motion was carried. A list of fifty-one charter members was read by Mr. Pollhein. Ruling elders elected were Messrs. W. Vance Nunn, W. Cowles Hogge, William P. Knox and Walter T. Wiley. Deacons elected were Messrs. Thomas W. Athey, Robert L. Hansford, Harry L. Hoover, J. Randolph Leaman and Joe D. Snyder, Jr.

When organized, the church had physical assets of one worn out piano, a few chairs and \$1,801.27. But the members were grateful for the spiritual blessings they had received, and the young Sunday School of 65 members.

Mr. O. V. Stephens, Jr. was appointed head usher by the Session.

New pulpit supply arrangements had to be made because Mr. Pollhein had to return to the Seminary. Arrangements were made whereby Mr. Pollhein would preach every other Sunday and stay on the field, being quartered at the W. Cowles Hogge's, until Monday afternoon to do what he could in ministering to the congregation. On the other Sunday, Mr. Robert H. Crumby, a senior at the Seminary in Richmond, would preach. The church was served well by these two young men, both of whom did an excellent job of preaching. Mr. Crumby usually preached forty minutes, with the congregation listening intently.

Our first Board of Christian Education was named by the Session and was composed of Mrs. R. L. Hunter, Mrs. Herbert M. Dickinson, Mr. W. Vance Nunn, Mr. Harry L. Hoover and Mr. Otis V. Stephens, Jr.

On October 30, 1955, a congregational meeting was held to decide the policy of the Church with regard to building or calling a full-time minister. The congregation decided unanimously to call a minister as soon as possible. At a congregational meeting the following Sunday a nominating Committee consisting of Mesdames R. L. Hunter and Richard Ferguson, and Messrs. W. Vance Nunn, W. Cowles Hogge and Joe D. Snyder, Jr., and alternates Mrs. W. P. Knox and Mr. J. Randolph Leaman, was designated.

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Two additional members, Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Matthews, were received into the Church on September 11, 1955. We closed the year with 53 communicants and 70 enrolled in the Sunday School.

On the second Sunday in 1956, the Rev. John King of the Seminary in Richmond came to Yorkminster to officiate at the Lord's Supper, baptize children and examine new members. Mrs. Otis V. Stephens, Jr., and son, Douglas Andrae, were received, and four children of members: Fred Raymond, Catherine Alice and Richard Allen Parker, and Nancy Elizabeth Nunn, were baptized.

Dr. W. E. Harrop officiated at the Lord's Supper on March 25, 1956, baptized children, and received two new members: Lt. and Mrs. Christopher Collins. Mrs. Collins is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Kirk Morrison of our Congo Mission.

On Sunday, April 29, 1956, a congregational meeting was held and a building committee composed of Messrs. Robert L. Hansford, W. Vance Nunn, Joe D. Snyder, Jr., J. Randolph Leaman, William P. Knox and Otis V. Stephens, Jr. was elected.

The following Sunday another congregational meeting was held to hear the report of the Nominating Committee. The meeting was moderated by the Rev. Donald W. Kaller, assistant pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Hampton, and soon to be a missionary to Brazil. Mrs. R. L. Hunter reported that the committee had searched prayerfully and diligently for the right minister for our church and believed that Dr. Walter E. Harrop of Charleston, West Virginia who had officiated at the Lord's Supper on March 25, was that minister. Dr. Harrop was given an unanimous call to come to us in September 1956.

Summer was coming on and Messrs. Pollhein and Crumby would soon be leaving. Mr. Pollhein was to work in a summer camp in Maryland, and Mr. Crumby was to go to a church in Florence, Alabama. We were fortunate to obtain the services of Dr. Stuart Bergsma for the summer. Dr. Bergsma was a member of the Christian Reformed Church, a missionary surgeon who had served in Abyssinia and Burma under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. Two of his children were then in the field as educational missionaries in Nigeria. Dr. Bergsma was doing resident medical work in psychiatry at Eastern State Hospital, and thus became available to us. Dr. Bergsma preached many memorable sermons.

A Daily Vacation Bible School was again held with Mrs. William Jennings as director and Mrs. Collins and others assisting.

The Rev. John Grey officiated at the Lord's Supper on August 5, 1956, at which time Colonel and Mrs. L. L. Shook were received into the Church.

Dr. Harrop preached his first sermon at Yorkminster on September 9, 1956, and Mr. and Mrs. John E. Yeates and Mr. G. Fred Hall were received into the Church. Dr. and Mrs. Harrop moved into a rented manse at Grafton the last week in September, and Dr. Harrop officially began his ministry at Yorkminster on September 30, 1956.

The week after Dr. Harrop arrived Elder Walter T. Wiley passed on to his

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heavenly reward.

Dr. Harrop was installed by a commission from Presbytery at a special afternoon service on Sunday, November 4, 1956. The Rev. Paul K. Buckles of the Newport News First Presbyterian Church delivered the sermon and exhorted the congregation to undergird Dr. Harrop's ministry with prayer. Dr. Bergsma delivered the charge to the congregation. Using Exodus 17:12 as the text, he called on the congregation to stay up the hands of their minister as Aaron and Hur stayed up Moses' hands until the going down of the sun while Joshua fought against Amalek. The Rev. Willis Thompson charged the Pastor.

In November, Mrs. Harrop and the Harrop's daughter, Polly, were received into membership of Yorkminster. Polly is the wife of the Rev. Robert L. Montgomery, missionary to Formosa of our Presbyterian, U. S., church.

In December, Mr. Joe D. Snyder, Jr. was installed as a ruling elder and Messrs. Otis V. Stephens, Jr. and William V. Nunn were installed as deacons. Mr. James H. Parker was appointed head usher by the Session.

On December 31, 1956, the membership totalled 71, there were 103 enrolled in Sunday School and there was \$9,403.73 in the Building Fund.

In January, 1957, the family of our late Elder Walter T. Wiley presented the church with a home communion service engraved "Walter T. Wiley, In Memoriam", and the Session recorded their appreciation of this gift.

January, 1957, was a good month for the church. Seven new members were received during the month and under Dr. Harrop's leadership our rate of growth appeared to be accelerating. However, Dr. Harrop became seriously ill and entered the hospital on February 2. We were very fortunate to have the services of Dr. Stuart Bergsma during the period of Dr. Harrop's illness, and we were very grateful for his kindness.

Yorkminster had its first ministerial candidate in the spring of 1957. Mrs. Herbert Dickinson and her husband had brought a young Japanese, Mr. Minoru Fukuda (on our Charter Roll) to the United States. Minoru was now a senior at our Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Due to an oversight, he had never been taken under care of a Presbytery. Hence, on April 7 he was examined by the Session and taken under care of the Norfolk Presbytery in July. Minoru was soon transferred to another Presbytery to continue his studies in preparation for missionary service in Brazil.

Our Building Committee had been at work and on May 19 presented a plan to the congregation. The congregation accepted the plan presented and dissolved the Building Committee. A motion was then carried that the Session meet with the Chairman of the Board of Deacons and the President of the Women of the Church to nominate a new Building Committee to carry through the actual construction, and a Finance Committee to obtain the necessary funds. The following Sunday the congregation approved a new Building Committee composed of Mesdames W. Cowles Hogge and Ernest William Johnson, and Messrs. William P. Knox, chairman, Cornelius Driver, O. Glenn Morris, John E. Yeates, Robert L. Hansford, J. Randolph Leaman, Joe D. Snyder, Jr., and Richard B. Ferguson,

and a Finance Committee composed of Messrs. W. Cowles Hogge, chairman, Thomas W. Athey, Otis V. Stephens, Jr., Harvey L. Curlee and W. Vance Nunn.

The Finance Committee, under the leadership of Mr. Hogge, immediately went to work. Valuable assistance was given by Presbyterian churches of the Peninsula, including Hampton First, Wythe, Newport News First, Hilton and Hidenwood. Grants of \$4,000 and \$5,000 were obtained from the General Assembly and Norfolk Presbytery respectively. Dr. Harrop obtained a large contribution from the Bradford Noyes Trust Fund through friends in Charleston, and many individuals helped swell our funds. Then a loan of \$30,000 from the Merchant's National Bank of Hampton put us over our goal.

The Building Committee boasted two women of ability, seven engineers, and a painting contractor. Under the leadership of Mr. William P. Knox, contract plans and specifications were prepared by the Committee, bids obtained, and a contract let to M. R. Piland and Son, General Contractors, (Elder R. Stanley Piland of Hilton Presbyterian Church, owner) for a \$50,000 air-conditioned building having six Sunday School rooms, kitchen, pastor's study and large fellowship hall to be used for worship services. The contract was entered into on September 1, 1957, and called for completion on February 1, 1958.

In August, the congregation voted to purchase the Hoover property in Grafton, which was then being rented for the Harrop's for a manse. The purchase price was \$14,500 and we were given \$2,500 by Presbytery to help us in assuming this new obligation.

In December, Mr. Harvey L. Curlee was installed as ruling elder to succeed Mr. W. Cowles Hogge who was retiring under the rotary system, and Messrs. John E. Yeates, William V. Nunn and James H. Parker were installed as deacons.

Dr. Bergsma preached his last sermon at Yorkminster on December 8, preaching on the Book of Philemon. Dr. Bergsma's work at Eastern State Hospital was now finished and Dr. and Mrs. Bergsma were returning to their home in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with Dr. Bergsma's continuing his studies at the University of Michigan. The Bergsma's were going to be missed. In addition to his preaching, Dr. Bergsma had contributed to the spiritual life of Yorkminster in teaching the Book of Deuteronomy and giving an excellent illustrated talk on Foreign Missions for the Women of the Church, and Mrs. Bergsma had spoken on Stewardship also for the Women of the Church.

The Statistical Report for 1957 listed our membership at 108 with 137 enrolled in the Sunday School.

Very bad weather was encountered by our builder in the fall of 1957 and the winter of 1958. February came and went, and likewise March and April, and our building was still not ready for occupancy. But completion was nearing and we were getting ready to move into the new building.

Two of our members, Messrs. Alvin Lunsford and Perry Southall, who were skilled in such work offered, respectively, to look after the furnace and air conditioning unit, and keep the church furniture in repair.

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Using a temporary walk and haphazard parking facilities, a grateful congregation held the first services in the new building on May 11, 1958. Four members were received into the church.

Mr. J. Randolph Leaman now prepared a grading, roadway, walks and parking lot plan which was approved by the Building Committee. A contract in the amount of \$3,685 was let for this work and it was soon completed.

The third anniversary of our organization was approaching and it was decided to dedicate the new building and place the cornerstone on August 17, 1958. The Rev. Donald E. Neel preached the morning sermon. It was a fine sermon based on Revelation 21:22, "and I saw no temple therein; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." Dr. W. J. B. Livingston offered the dedicatory prayer. The Rev. Carl K. Pollhein of Bradshaw, Maryland, who was our student pastor when we were organized, delivered the afternoon sermon to a capacity crowd. The Rev. John Grey offered the prayer at the cornerstone placing. A reception was held in the church afterward and visitors were invited to inspect the building.

In the fall under the leadership of Deacon William V. Nunn, Jr., the church lot was seeded and Mrs. W. Cowles Hogge supervised the planting of shrubbery around the building. As a result, our building now makes a very pleasing appearance on a green lot with many lovely shade trees.

The Building Committee was discharged at a congregational meeting on November 23, 1958.

In October, 1958, Mr. John E. Yeates, Jr. was made Superintendent of the Sunday School.

A Young People's Fellowship was organized under the leadership of Lt. and Mrs. Michael Liles. This couple was one of the blessings of Dr. Harrop's hospitalization as Mrs. Liles was nursing at the hospital when Dr. Harrop was ill, and came into Yorkminster by way of this acquaintance.

In December, Messrs. W. Cowles Hogge and William V. Nunn were installed as ruling elders, and Messrs. Richard B. Ferguson, Perry Southall and William C. Hogge, Jr. were installed as deacons.

The Statistical Report for 1958 listed 153 communicants and 188 enrolled in Sunday School.

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CHARTER MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. Thomas Athey	Williamsburg Presbyterian	Williamsburg, Va.
2. Agnes Borchers	Wythe Presbyterian	Hampton, Va.
3. Ruth Clements	Wythe Presbyterian	Hampton, Va.
4. Alice Dickinson	Williamsburg, Presbyterian	Williamsburg, Va.
5. Richard Ferguson	Christian Church	Williamsburg, Va.
6. Valerie Ferguson	Hilton Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
7. Minoru Fukuda	Williamsburg Presbyterian	Williamsburg, Va.
8. Lavenia Gage	Williamsburg Presbyterian	Williamsburg, Va.
9. Ann Giles	Providence Methodist	Dare, Va.
10. Harry Hoover	Providence Methodist	Dare, Va.
11. Ellen Hoover	Providence Methodist	Dare, Va.
12. Robert Hansford	Profession of Faith	Warwick, Va.
13. Thelma Hansford	Profession of Faith	Williamsburg, Va.
14. Ada Hunter	Hilton Presbyterian	Newport News, Va.
15. W. Cowles Hogge	First Presbyterian	Newport News, Va.
16. Margaret Hogge	First Presbyterian	Newport News, Va.
17. William C. Hogge, Jr.	First Presbyterian	Hampton, Va.
18. Mildred Hogge	Profession of Faith	Warwick, Va.
19. Mary Sue Hall	Providence Methodist	Dare, Va.
20. Ann Reece Johnson	Profession of Faith	Warwick, Va.
21. David Johnson	First Presbyterian	Newport News, Va.
22. Ernest Johnson	Wythe Presbyterian	Hampton, Va.
23. Lorraine Johnson	Wythe Presbyterian	Hampton, Va.
24. Betty Jennings	Mebane Memorial Presbyterian	Roxboro, N. C.
25. William P. Knox, Jr.	Hilton Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
26. Agnes Knox	Hilton Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
27. William P. Knox, III	Hilton Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
28. Ramsay Knox	Hilton Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
29. Eunice Kimball		Dare, Va.
30. Randolph Leaman	First Presbyterian	Newport News, Va.
31. Gladys Leaman	First Presbyterian	Newport News, Va.
32. Margaret Menges	Zion Methodist	Seaford, Va.
33. Vance Nunn	Providence Methodist	Dare, Va.
34. Susan Nunn	Providence Methodist	Dare, Va.
35. William Nunn	Providence Methodist	Dare, Va.
36. Hazel Nunn	Providence Methodist	Dare, Va.
37. Hershel Matthews		Warwick, Va.
38. Ethel Matthews	Morrison Methodist	Damascus, Va.
39. Joyce Phillips	Damascus Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
40. James Parker	Profession of Faith	Warwick, Va.
41. Gay Parker	Hilton Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
42. Joe Snyder	Hilton Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
43. Sarah Snyder	Hilton Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
44. Joel Snyder	Hilton Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
45. Anne Snyder	Hilton Presbyterian	Warwick, Va.
46. Janet Neilson	Wythe Presbyterian	Hampton, Va.
47. Otis Stephens	Zion Methodist	Seaford, Va.
48. Amy Sheriff	First Presbyterian	Newport News, Va.
49. Walter Wiley	First Presbyterian	Hampton, Va.
50. Reba Wiley	First Presbyterian	Hampton, Va.
51. Mary Elizabeth Johnson	Wythe Presbyterian	Hampton, Va.

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1959

The year of 1959 was a year of growth and consolidation for Yorkminster. Three new members were received the first Sunday of the year. Before the end of the year sixty-one new members had been received and our membership had increased from 153 to 206.

1959 was the first complete year in our own building. During the year we reduced the indebtedness on our building from \$27,800 to \$19,800. We are thankful to have been able to reduce our indebtedness. It will not be long until we have to finance an addition to our building as there is even now a critical need for more Sunday School rooms. During the year substantial gifts were received from the Hilton and Hidenwood Presbyterian Churches.

Early in the year a reception was held for members received in 1958. A candle-light service on Monday night and nightly services Tuesday through Friday were held during Holy Week. During November a teacher training course, "Survey of the New Testament" was conducted each Sunday evening. Because of our continued growth, the congregation voted to increase the number of elders and deacons from four to six and six to nine respectively.

The Women of the Church carried on their usual commendable work throughout the year. There were five circles. Dr. William F. Junkin, Jr., a missionary to Taiwan, spoke during the World Mission Season. Mrs. Glen Williams of Ararat, Virginia spoke on her work with her husband in the Blue Ridge Larger Parish during the Church Extension Season. The Christmas pageant for Ministerial Relief was well received.

During the year our Sunday School enrollment jumped from 137 to 188. A one-week Vacation Church School was held with Mrs. John E. Yeates and Mrs. J. Robert Turnage as directors. A very enjoyable Sunday School picnic was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Southall in Dare.

Our Youth Advisers, Lt. and Mrs. Michael Liles, were transferred and Ruling Elder Harvey Curlee with Mrs. Curlee took over the duties. Subsequently, the Youth Fellowship was divided into Pioneers and Seniors with Mrs. Oliver Diehl as adviser to the younger group. The worship service conducted on Assembly's Youth Sunday by our young people was an inspiration to all.

During the year the Men of the Church were organized and chartered. The Rev. John Grey, D.D., of Williamsburg spoke at the organizational meeting. The men of our Church were well represented at District and Presbytery rallies and twelve men attended the Synod men's Conference at Massanetta.

Dr. Harrop has continued in good health and under his leadership we are going forward. We are thankful for the many blessings we received during the year and pray for the Holy Spirit to arm us for the tasks ahead. All around us are fields ripe to the harvest and more workers are needed.

This history was prepared under the direction of Mrs. Reba Wiley, Historian of the Women of the Church, by Ruling Elder, Joe D. Snyder, Jr.

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1960

1960 was a year of continued growth for Yorkminster. The number of communicants increased from 206 to 258. A reception for new members was held in January.

The Rev. Plummer Smith, retired Congo missionary, was the World Missions speaker in February. Mr. Smith preached at the morning worship service and spoke in the evening after a family night supper.

The Planning Committee reported that tentative plans were being drawn for an addition to the building to provide 7,000 square feet of needed space. A new piano was purchased and placed in the fellowship hall. Additional communion trays were ordered for the growing congregation.

Dr. Harrop conducted special services each evening in Holy Week using as his subject each evening the events of that day in Jesus' life.

The Session approved the vocational guidance plan as set up by the Synod and later it was agreed the church would bear one-half of the cost for each young person using the plan.

A new central heating plant was installed in the manse.

The following were elected officers in the Class of 1963:

Elders - Dr. J. R. Turnage  
Joe D. Snyder, Jr.

Deacons - Robert C. Ingram  
Thomas C. Spence  
Harvey G. McComb, Jr.

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Joe D. Snyder, Jr., Historian

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1961

1961 was a year of continued growth for Yorkminster. The number of communicants on roll increased from 258 to 298 and there were nine professions of faith. Total contributions increased from \$22,669 in 1960 to \$25,922 in 1961. Because of the increased membership the Board of Deacons was increased from six to nine members.

In the fall the Women of the Church began publishing the Yorkminster Newsletter which was well received.

During the year a planning committee had been at work developing plans for additional church school space. A congregational meeting on October 29, 1961 heard the report of the planning committee. The congregation approved the proposed expansion plans, authorized the trustees to encumber or utilize the funds of Yorkminster as necessary, and designated the following persons to prosecute the work of building and financing the building:

Building Committee:	W. P. Knox, Jr., Chairman	Austin P. Boyd
	Joe D. Snyder, Jr.	Robert L. Hansford
	Cornelius Driver	Harry E. Johns
	Mrs. J. William Speegle	

Finance Committee:	W. Cowles Hogge, Chairman	Thomas C. Spence
	Thomas W. Athey	Mrs. Dorothy Cooke
	Mrs. Kenneth Ackerly	

The Reverend and Mrs. Robert L. Montgomery, Missionaries to Taiwan, and their children returned to the United States on furlough in October. Mrs. Montgomery is the former Pauline Harrop.

The following men were elected to serve as Elders and Deacons in classes as shown:

Elders -	Austin P. Boyd	- Class of 1964
	W. Vance Nunn	- Class of 1964
Deacons -	W. C. Hogge, Jr.	- Class of 1964
	Dr. John Quarles	- Class of 1964
	Samuel C. Morgan	- Class of 1964
	Harry E. Johns	- Class of 1964
	Robert W. Smartt	- Class of 1963
	Robert L. Hansford	- Class of 1962

Yorkminster's beloved pastor died suddenly on December 8, 1961, two months before his seventieth birthday. Dr. Paul K. Buckles officiated at the funeral service for Dr. Harrop on Sunday, December 10, 1961. Dr. Harrop's body was carried to Abingdon, Virginia for burial. A fitting tribute to Dr. Harrop, written by Elder J. R. Turnage, was placed in the December 10 bulletin. Dr. Harrop was Yorkminster's first pastor. He began his work at Yorkminster on September 30, 1956, thirteen months after the church was chartered. Under his leadership the church grew from slightly more than the charter membership of 51 to the present 298 member congregation; built

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the first unit - a \$50,000 structure - of the church building; and acquired the manse property. Dr. Harrop would be missed but the congregation remembered past blessings and looked forward to the challenge of the New Year in anticipation of a new building program and the new minister it was felt the Lord would provide.

On December 31, 1961 a congregational meeting elected a Nominating Committee to nominate a pastor for Yorkminster. The Committee consisted of the following persons:

Austin P. Boyd  
John A. Parker  
William V. Nunn  
Samuel C. Morgan  
Mrs. John E. Yeates  
Mrs. Joe D. Snyder, Jr.

Following the congregational meeting the committee met briefly with the Session to be advised concerning their duties and Mr. Boyd was elected chairman of the committee.

Joe D. Snyder, Jr., Historian

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1962

1962 was a year of continued growth for Yorkminster. The number of communicants on roll increased from 298 to 338 and there were 29 professions of faith. Total contributions increased from \$25,922 in 1961 to \$36,048 in 1962.

The Reverend John Grey of the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church was appointed by Presbytery to moderate the Session following the death of Dr. Harrop. Elder John Yeates was elected by the Session to moderate meetings when Mr. Grey was not present.

The Yorkminster pulpit was supplied by several area assistant pastors for several weeks following Dr. Harrop's death. The Session then arranged for Ministerial Students Al Powell and Zolton Phillips of our Seminary in Richmond to supply on alternate Sundays through May. Mr. Phillips continued to serve as temporary supply through the summer.

Bids were received on the addition to the building in March and a contract for approximately \$65,000 was signed with M..R. Piland and Son for the construction. The new building added seven thousand square feet of needed floor area to the five thousand in the first unit.

Yorkminster's rate of growth slowed perceptibly while she was without a regular pastor. However, there was one adult baptism and a communicant class of nine, instructed by Elder J. R. Turnage, was received on the Thursday evening before Easter. It was noted in the Session minutes that attendance at worship service, and offerings had held up very well. The church also undertook to provide partial support to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Chang, Missionaries to Brazil, and planned a spiritual retreat for church officers in the fall.

Walter Harrop Montgomery, infant son of the Rev. and Mrs. Robert L. Montgomery, was baptized on May 13, 1962.

The Nominating Committee was hard at work all the while and agreed on June 10, 1962 to nominate to the congregation the Rev. James Frazier Van Dyke of Orlando, Florida. On June 12, 1962 the Nominating Committee Chairman, Elder Austin P. Boyd, died suddenly at the age of thirty-eight years. The Session met the same night and called a congregational meeting for June 24, 1962 to hear the report of the Nominating Committee. The Rev. John Grey moderated the congregational meeting and a unanimous call was presented to Mr. Van Dyke to begin his work here on September 1, 1962.

Following Mr. Van Dyke's arrival the congregation acted to increase the membership of the Session from six to nine ruling Elders; the spiritual retreat for church officers was held; the church participated in the Peninsula Area World Mission Conference; a twenty-four hour prayer vigil was observed during the Cuban crisis; action was taken to increase our parking area to handle one hundred and ninety cars; a part-time church secretary, Mrs. Helen Antoniewicz, a choir director, Mrs. Dorothy Barnes, were hired; and the new building was occupied.

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YEAR 1962

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Regretfully Mrs. Harrop was dismissed to the Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church in Abingdon, Virginia.

The following were elected as Elders and Deacons:

Elders -	F. Ambert Dail	- Class of 1965
	John A. Parker	- Class of 1965
	W. Cowles Hogge	- Class of 1965
	Samuel C. Morgan	- Class of 1964
	Harvey G. McComb, Jr.	- Class of 1964
	Thomas C. Spence	- Class of 1963
Deacons -	Martin T. Moul	- Class of 1965
	Robert L. Hansford	- Class of 1965
	William M. Kahlbaum	- Class of 1965
	Jack K. Adams	- Class of 1965
	Thomas W. Athey	- Class of 1964
	Marvin S. Finch	- Class of 1963
	G. Ramsay Knox	- Class of 1963

Joe D. Snyder, Jr., Historian

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1963

The year 1963 was one of continued growth for Yorkminster. The number of communicants on roll increased from 338 to 366. However, there were only seven professions of faith compared to 29 in 1962. Total contributions increased from \$36,048 in 1962 to \$42,639 in 1963.

On the first Sunday of 1963 the new educational addition was dedicated in a brief service following the morning worship. Yorkminster has been greatly blessed in material resources. Truly the lines have fallen unto us in pleasant places.

Yorkminster participated in the Presbytery ministerial exchange during the World Mission season. Mr. Van Dyke preached at Hilton and the Rev. Julius S. Garbett of the Hilton Church was at Yorkminster.

A reception for new members was held at the church on Sunday afternoon, March 3. Old and new members enjoyed the fellowship. Mr. Van Dyke took a two-weeks vacation in March. On the two Sundays he was away the pulpit was supplied by the Rev. Donald E. Neel, Executive Secretary of Norfolk Presbytery, and Mr. Zolton Phillips, seminary student, who was our supply after Dr. Harrop's death until Mr. Van Dyke was called.

Also in March Yorkminster was host to the Interdenominational World Day of Prayer Service. All evangelical churches in the community were invited and many of our Negro brethren were present to partake of the Lord's Supper.

A pair of decorative lanterns for the main entrance was given to the church in memory of Dr. Harrop by members of his family.

On Palm Sunday the choir sang the cantata, "The Song of Easter" by Roger C. Wilson. On Thursday night the Last Supper was commemorated in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Mr. Van Dyke preached Sunday morning at the community sunrise service at the Yorktown monument. Two worship services were held on Easter morning at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. The attendance at the two services totaled 391 persons.

At a joint meeting of the Elders and Deacons in April it was decided to form a Planning and Study Committee to begin planning for the building of a Sanctuary. The various organizations nominated members to the Session and the following committee was formed:

Women of the Church	- Mrs. E. William Johnson
Sunday School	- Mr. Arthur Henderson, Jr.
Senior Youth Group	- Mr. Richard S. Morgan
Session	- Mr. Thomas C. Spence
Board of Deacons	- Mr. Martin T. Moul
Congregation-at-large	- Mr. Wilfred A. Wells Mrs. Harvey G. McComb, Jr.

The committee reported to the Session that a sanctuary is needed now.

Christian Family Week was observed in May. A family night supper was held and the film "Faith of our Families", a film on family worship was shown.

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1963

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In June the regular Vacation Bible School was held. Paralleling the Bible School was Pioneer Week at which our Pioneers gathered at Dandy Shores each morning for fellowship and instruction. Mr. Jack K. Adams, Deacon and State Trooper, helped with the Pioneers.

The summer was camp and conference season and a number of Yorkminster members attended camps and conferences at Massanetta and other places.

An informal "Hymn Sing" was held at the church on the last Sunday evening of June, July and August, and was very much enjoyed by the large number that attended. A surprise feature was a solo, "Stranger of Galilee", by Mr. Van Dyke one evening. The young people filled the choir in August.

Mr. Van Dyke was busy during the summer, too. He attended Synod, spoke at the Synod Youth Convention at Massanetta, and studied at the Seminary under the Summer Scholar's Program.

An Inquirer's Class taught by Elders during the Sunday School hour was begun in September. The class was set up to run for four weeks and then repeated as needed.

About 300 persons attended the Peninsula Leadership School which was held at Yorkminster.

In the fall quarter the Adult Sunday School studied the Book of Jeremiah under the leadership of Mr. Van Dyke using the study book "Hammer on the Rock".

The second annual Spiritual Retreat for Elders and Deacons was held at Camp Hanover. It was a worthwhile experience for all who attended. The Epistle of James was studied emphasizing the importance of good works in the Christian life.

The Covenant Life Curriculum was introduced to the congregation in district meetings in the homes of Elders during November. Approximately eighty persons attended the meetings.

A lot on Beechwood Drive was purchased by the congregation as a site for a future manse. Approximately sixty percent of the lot was owned by Mrs. Margaret Boyd, a member of the congregation, and sold to the church at original cost and considerably below the present market value.

The following men were elected to serve as Elders and Deacons:

Elders - Class of 1966  
Thomas C. Spence, Jack K. Adams, Thomas W. Athey

Deacons - Class of 1964  
Roland H. Brown

Class of 1965  
Wilfred A. Wells, Marvin S. Finch

Class of 1966  
Arthur Henderson, W. Pratt Harris, O. V. Stephens, Dr. W.P.Knox, III

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1964

The year 1964 was another one of continued growth for Yorkminster and also a few surprises. The number of communicants on roll increased from 366 to 382. There were ten professions of faith. Total contributions increased from \$42,639 in 1963 to \$46,342 in 1964.

The adults in the Sunday School began the study of "Into Covenant Life" on the first Sunday in the year. They were a quarter late getting started because the literature was not available in October. In addition to the regular Sunday School hour, Mr. Van Dyke taught the study book at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday for the benefit of Sunday School teachers and others who could not attend in the regular morning hour.

On January 19 a congregational meeting was held and a Building Planning Council was elected to plan the building of a sanctuary for Yorkminster. Elected to serve on the council were Mr. T. C. Spence of the Session, Mr. Arthur Henderson of the Diaconate, Mr. John E. Yeates of the Church School, Mrs. Austin P. Boyd of the Women of the Church, Miss Peggy Diehl of the Senior Youth, and Mr. Wilfred Wells and Mr. Joe D. Snyder, Jr. of the Congregation at large.

One of the first events of 1964 was the reception for new members. This event was held on a weekday night, Friday, January 24, whereas in the past it was always held on a Sunday afternoon. The event was well attended and was enjoyed by old and new members alike.

As part of our World Missions Emphasis Yorkminster participated in the Presbytery pulpit exchange on February 23. Mr. Little of the Parkview Church preaching at Yorkminster and Mr. Van Dyke at Parkview. Then on March 8 a family night supper was held and the Rev. Walter Boss of the Resurrection Lutheran Church, Newport News, spoke on World Missions. Mr. Boss and his wife had traveled in the Middle East the preceding two years surveying mission work there for the Lutheran church.

On the afternoon of February 23 Yorkminster participated in the Brotherhood Week Service at the Shiloh Baptist Church. Mr. Van Dyke preached and the Yorkminster choir provided the music.

On March 1 Mr. Charles E. Forbes was elected a Deacon to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Wilfred Wells. Mr. Wells was Town Manager of Poquoson and left York County for a similar post in North Carolina.

On March 22, Palm Sunday, the choir sang the cantata, "The Crucifixion", by John Stainer. Mrs. Barnes and Mr. Van Dyke sang the leading parts. On Thursday night the Lord's Supper was celebrated. Beginning Easter Sunday and continuing through June 21 worship services were held at 8:30 a.m. as well as 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Van Dyke was on vacation for two weeks following Easter. The pulpit was filled one Sunday by the Rev. S. D. McCammon, Executive Secretary of Norfolk Presbytery. On the other Sunday the Rev. David C. Van Sickel of the Reformed Church in America in Wayne, New Jersey was in the pulpit. Mr.

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1964

Page 2

Van Sickle was in Norfolk Presbytery participating in a program of pulpit visitation while our churches are discussing union.

Our Vacation Church School was held the week of June 14 and Pioneer Week the following week. The summer was camp and conference season and a number of Yorkminster members attended camps and conferences at Massanetta and other places.

The church was shocked to hear the call for a congregational meeting on July 26 to act on the pastor's resignation and elect a Nominating Committee. Mr. Van Dyke was with us only two years and we regretted his leaving, but we trust God that these things will work out for the best. Messrs. J. A. Parker, Arthur Henderson, Danny Little, T. C. Spence, and E. W. Randolph and Mesdames John Yeates, Jr. and Robert W. Smartt were elected as the Nominating Committee.

The Rev. Hugh McClure was appointed by Presbytery to moderate our Session while we were without a pastor.

The annual church picnic was held on Tuesday, August 11, on the church lawn. Food, fellowship and fun were enjoyed by all.

The Youth Division was divided into three groups in lieu of two.

From September 6 to the year's end we were very fortunate in having the Rev. Z. N. Holler as interim supply pastor. Mr. Holler was working at the Seminary in Richmond on a doctorate thesis on the Servant Language in the Old Testament. He came to us each week on Saturday or Sunday and the church was blessed by having Mr. Holler and getting to know his family.

On September 27 the congregation voted to sell the present manse property in Grafton and build a new manse on the lot owned by the church on Beechwood Drive. The existing Building Planning Council was designated to execute this work.

The choir presented the cantata, "Childe Jesus", by Clokey-Kirk at the morning worship hour the Sunday before Christmas.

Miss Craig Patterson and Mr. H. E. Johns replaced Miss Peggy Diehl and Mr. Wilfred Wells on the Building Planning Council.

The congregation elected the following men as Elders and Deacons in the Class of 1967:

Elders - E. W. Randolph, Robert W. Smartt, J. D. Snyder, Jr.

Deacons - Roland Brown, J. E. Warinner, John Sundy, Walter Akers

These men with the exception of Mr. Smartt were ordained and installed on December 27.

At year's end Yorkminster looked forward expectantly for a good year and a new minister.

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY  
YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1965

1965 was another year of continued growth for Yorkminster. The number of communicants on roll increased from 382 to 401. There were 12 professions of faith compared to 10 in 1964. Total contributions increased from \$46,342 in 1964 to \$48,940 in 1965.

Yorkminster began 1965 with the Rev. Z. N. Holler serving as stated supply. The church was still without a pastor and the Nominating Committee was still at work.

At a congregational meeting on January 17 the sale of the old manse property in Grafton for \$19,000 was approved.

On January 24 as part of our World Mission Emphasis the pulpit was filled by the Rev. Plummer Smith, retired missionary from the Congo. This was Mr. Smith's second visit to Yorkminster. Also, a family night supper was held in the evening with Miss Helen Marie Becker as the Mission speaker.

Assembly's Youth Sunday was celebrated on January 31 and the worship service was conducted by the young people who also filled the choir. Following the service a congregational meeting was held to elect an elder to replace Mr. Robert W. Smartt who had moved from the area. Mr. John E. Yeates was elected in the Class of 1968.

The same congregational meeting heard the report of the pastoral nominating committee. Elder John A. Parker, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the qualifications of 34 ministers had been reviewed, 8 churches visited, 5 ministers interviewed and three brought to look over the field. The last was the Reverend John Hervey Thompson, 39 years old, a graduate of Hampden-Sydney in 1948 and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia in 1951. Mr. Thompson taught and preached before going to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Mobile, Alabama in 1955 when that church was organized. Mr. Thompson was elected unanimously as pastor of Yorkminster.

The youth of Yorkminster participated in Norfolk Presbytery's "Weekend with Missionaries."

On the afternoon of February 27, Mr. Holler's last Sunday as Yorkminster's stated supply, an open house was held at the Spence residence for the Holler family. Many members of Yorkminster came to show their appreciation of Mr. Holler's ministry here and their regard for his wife and family.

Mr. Thompson with his wife, the former Sue Oliver of Farmville, Virginia, and their children, John, 17 years old, Joan, 14, and Philip, 9, arrived at the manse on March 1. Mr. Thompson met with the Session on March 4, and with Mrs. Thompson met the Session and their wives and the members of the Nominating Committee and their husbands and wives on the evening of March 6. Mr. Thompson preached his first sermon at Yorkminster on March 7.

The Session expressed their appreciation in a letter to the Reverend Hugh McClure of Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church for the outstanding service he

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1965

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rendered as the Yorkminster Session's Moderator while Yorkminster was without a minister.

Beginning on March 28 worship services were held at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. each Sunday morning.

Mr. Thompson was installed as minister of Yorkminster on Sunday evening, April 11. The Rev. Jesse Hutcheson of the Northampton Presbyterian Church preached the sermon and Elder Ambert Dail of Yorkminster offered the pastoral prayer.

A Marital Advisory Committee was appointed by the pastor, and approved by the Session, to assist him in counseling with couples having marital difficulties.

A congregational meeting was held on June 6 to hear the report of the Building Planning Council. The congregation authorized the hiring of an architect to develop preliminary plans.

A Covenant Life Curriculum preview for the Peninsula District was held at Yorkminster on August 15.

The local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous was granted use of the building to hold weekly meetings.

A Hearing Committee for Union Theological Seminary was designated to learn of their plans for a capital funds drive in 1966.

The congregation voted to increase the number of Ruling Elders on the Session from 9 to 12 by electing one more Elder each year than the number being rotated off the Session in the years 1965, 1966 and 1967.

A special offering was taken to aid churches in New Orleans Presbytery that were damaged in Hurricane Betsy.

In September the Session authorized a midweek Newsletter.

The Community Thanksgiving service was held at Yorkminster on Wednesday evening, November 24.

The following men were elected to serve as Elders and Deacons in the Class of 1968:

Elders - Mr. H. E. Johns  
Mr. H. G. McComb  
Dr. J. M. Quarles  
Mr. E. M. Russell

Deacons - Mr. W. E. Bruce  
Mr. R. K. DeVries

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1965

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Deacons - Mr. R. E. Little  
(cont.) Mr. J. T. Matthews

The choir sang a Christmas Cantata at the 11:00 o'clock worship service on December 19.

Yorkminster looked forward expectantly to 1966.

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Joe D. Snyder, Jr., Historian

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY  
YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1966

1966 was another year of continued growth for Yorkminster. The number of communicants on roll increased from 401 to 445. There were 28 professions of faith and 8 adult baptisms. Total contributions increased from \$48,940 in 1965 to \$51,928 in 1966.

On the second Sunday of the year a congregational meeting was held at which Mr. Cowles Hogge was elected a trustee to replace Mr. Vance Nunn and to revise the terms of the minister's call. The following Sunday evening there was a Family Night Supper at the church following which the Rev. Vincent Stubbs, Missionary to Japan spoke on his work there.

A Community Wide Youth Week for 11th and 12th grades was held during the week of January 23 with Mr. Ambert Dail leading the study sessions. Assembly's Youth Sunday was scheduled for January 30, but services for the date were canceled because of a heavy snow and the young people conducted the services on February 6.

On Sunday afternoon, February 20, a reception was held at the church for the new members received during 1965.

On March 6 the Rev. Kenneth B. Orr, Public Relations Director for Union Theological Seminary filled the pulpit. Yorkminster supported the seminary capital funds drive with a gift of \$2,300 per year for three years.

During Holy Week special services were held each night from Sunday through Thursday with the Lord's Supper being celebrated on Thursday. Dr. David Edington, minister of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church of Mobile, Alabama was the Holy Week speaker.

A Weekday Kindergarten was established during the year to begin in the fall. Mrs. John Martin was retained as director.

A Family Retreat was held at the Presbytery Campsite on Sunday, May 15. Regular worship service was conducted at the church at 8:45 a.m. and a worship service was also conducted at the campsite.

July was a busy month with the annual church picnic held at the church on Thursday evening, July 7, and the Family Bible Institute the week of July 11. Also, Norfolk Presbytery met at Yorkminster for the first time and there were many favorable reports on the dinner served by the Women of the Church.

On September 18 Yorkminster was once again host to the Peninsula Leadership Training School.

Our Missionary, the Rev. Stephen P. Chang, was on furlough during the year. The Changs were with us on October 9 with Mr. Chang preaching for the morning worship service and speaking again in the evening after a family night supper.

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1966

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During 1966 Yorkminster began having communion once a month in lieu of once a quarter. Regular morning worship was held at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday morning and then changed to 10:00 a.m. The wall at the rear of the Fellowship Hall was removed to increase the seating capacity, the carpet was installed on the platform and the property was surveyed in connection with planning for the new sanctuary.

All in all, 1966 was a year of continued blessings for Yorkminster.

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Joe D. Snyder, Jr., Historian

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1967

1967 was a year of modest growth for Yorkminster. The number of communicants on roll increased from 445 to 457, and total giving was up from \$51,928 in 1966 to \$61,568.

In January the Strengthening the Church Committee began looking for a seminary student to work with the youth groups and to render other services during the summer months. In February the Committee recommended first year student, Mr. Dan Taylor, be engaged for the summer months and the Session did so. Mr. Taylor's ministry among us proved rewarding for us and we like to think for him also, as he worked with our young people, supplied the pulpit a number of times and was called upon to officiate at a funeral for one of our members. The Committee recommended to the Session that a student worker be engaged again next summer.

In February the Building Planning Council reported to the Session that the preliminary sanctuary planning was complete and requested a congregational meeting be called to authorize the preparation of detail building plans and the raising of funds. The congregation authorized the requested actions on March 12, 1967.

On March 1 the Rev. John LaMotte, pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Norfolk and former missionary to the Congo was our mission season speaker. Mr. LaMotte gave us a first hand account of the work there and the challenges to be met.

Special worship services were held each evening Sunday through Thursday during Holy Week. The Sacrament of Communion was celebrated on Thursday evening. Guest speakers were as follows:

Sunday	- The Rev. Jesse Hutcheson of Northampton Church
Monday	- The Rev. Paul Buckles, retired of Newport News First Church
Tuesday	- The Rev. Hugh McClure of Hiddenwood Church
Wednesday	- Mr. Mac Freeman, layman and Executive Secretary of Nashville Presbytery
Thursday	- The Rev. John Rice of Trinity Church

1967 was the second year of special services with guest ministers and it is hoped that these services can be continued.

Easter morning worship services were held at eight-thirty and ten o'clock.

A Training School for Church School Teachers was conducted on April 28 and 29 by the Strengthening the Church Committee with the Rev. Jesse Hutcheson of the Northampton Church as leader.

The family retreat was held at Makemie Woods on Sunday, May 7, with worship on the grounds. An early worship service at the church was also held for those members of the congregation not going to Makemie Woods.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile was at Yorkminster on May 8.

The Family Bible Institute was held July 16-21 from seven o'clock to

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
Year 1967

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eight-thirty each evening with Mr. W. B. Jones serving as director.

The annual picnic was held at the church on August 1 with supper on the lawn.

A Church Recreation Council was formed in York County during the year and a Yorkminster softball team competed in the league. In the fall a rifle team was organized.

The following men were elected to serve as Elders and Deacons in the Class of 1970:

Elders - Jack K. Adams  
Otis V. Stephens  
Joseph K. Taylor  
J. Ernest Warinner

Deacons - William B. Jones  
William V. Nunn  
Robert W. Fralich  
Martin T. Moul

The firm of Agne-Farnworth of Arlington, Virginia was retained to assist in our Every Member Canvass and Building Fund Campaign. Response was sufficient to enable proceeding with our building plans.

In the fall a training course for elementary teachers was held with Mrs. Alvin Collins of the Hampton First Church as leader.

A breakfast at the church followed by an informal family worship service was held on Thanksgiving morning with 140 persons present. For fifty cents those attending ate their fill of fruit juice, eggs, bacon, grits, hot rolls, butter, jelly, milk and coffee. The meal was prepared by a group of our men including our pastor under the leadership of Mr. Pratt Harris.

A Long Range Planning Committee was appointed to work with the minister to consider long range plans and goals for Yorkminster. Those appointed to the committee were Mr. Harvey McComb, Mrs. Cornelius Driver, Mr. John Yeates, Mrs. Charles Hudson and Mr. Gregg Feller.

A communion service was held on Christmas Eve at seven-thirty.

It is with regret that we note the death of the husband of our Edith Barnes Carlyle. He was killed in action in Vietnam.

At year's end the Building Planning Committee requested bids on the proposed new sanctuary with church school and office space.

Yorkminster looked forward in anticipation to 1968.

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Joe D. Snyder, Jr., Historian

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY  
YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
1968

1968 saw continued growth at Yorkminster. The number of communicants on roll increased from 457 to 496 while total contributions increased from \$74,591.36 in 1967 to \$77,784.53 in 1968.

On January 21 there was a Family Night Supper. Our Witness Season speaker was the Rev. Tom Foley, missionary to Brazil. In addition to telling of his work in Brazil, Mr. Foley, who is an accomplished vocalist, sang several numbers for the congregation. Then the evening of January 28 Mr. Thompson spoke on "The Bible and the Faiths of Men".

January 28 was also General Assembly's Youth Sunday and the morning worship service was conducted by the youth groups.

On February 4 and 11 there were two lively Teen-Parent panel discussions in the evening youth groups.

On the evening of February 11 there was a congregational meeting to hear the report of the Building Planning Council. The congregation voted to accept the bid of \$180,900 by the George H. Ivins Company for the construction of the sanctuary, office and church school space contingent upon the sale of a bond issue of \$225,000. The trustees were also authorized to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$225,000. The Building Planning Council was commended for its work and dissolved. A Building Committee to oversee the construction and furnishing of the new building was elected as follows:

Mr. Harry E. Johns, Mrs. Margaret Matthews, Mr. John E. Yeates

On February 25 there was another Family Night Supper. On this occasion the Rev. Neil Leach of Virginia Beach spoke on Home Missions.

On March 7 and 8 the church bonds went on sale with approximately \$90,000 being purchased by Yorkminster members.

On Palm Sunday the choir sang the cantata, "Hallelujah! What a Savior!", by J. W. Peterson at the morning worship service. Following the morning worship service there was a ground-breaking service for the new sanctuary. That night Dr. Paul Buckles, retired pastor of Newport News First Presbyterian Church, preached the first of the Holy Week special services. Dr. Buckles preached each evening through Wednesday. The Lord's Supper was celebrated on Thursday evening with Mr. Thompson conducting the service.

Eighteen of our young people spent the weekend of April 26-28 at Makemie Woods with the Rev. and Mrs. Tom Foley, missionaries to Brazil, Mr. James White, student assistant pastor for the summer and Mr. Dan Taylor, student assistant in 1967, and his wife.

The Family Retreat was held at Makemie Woods on May 5. Ninety persons from 22 families were present.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile was at Yorkminster on May 13.

During the summer Mr. James White, first year student at Union Seminary in

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1968

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Richmond, was at Yorkminster as assistant pastor. Mr. White worked with the youth groups and preached when Mr. Thompson was away. A midweek service was held during July and August under Mr. White assisted by the young people.

Miss Diane Rickoll, student at our School of Christian Education in Richmond, was also at Yorkminster during the summer. Miss Rickoll worked for Norfolk Presbytery under our Session trying to determine effective methods of ministering in the neighboring trailer courts.

The regular Family Bible Institute was held the week of July 21 to 26 with supper on Sunday night and classes for all ages from 7 to 8:30. Other summer activities were the Ladies Night Fish Fry by the Men of the Church, a youth camping trip to Cape Hatteras, the family picnic at Newport News City Park and softball in the Youk County Recreation Council League.

Two of our senior young people, Miss Janet Douglas and Mr. Michael Spence, went with the Norfolk Presbytery Caravan to Mexico which carried seventeen young people to Oaxaca, Mexico. While there they worked three weeks building a dining hall for the Presbytery of Oaxaca's Youth Camp.

During the year the young people adopted a colored family. The family was assisted in finding and moving into a new house and the younger children were played with and carried places for fun and frolic.

A Christmas party for our missionaries, the Stephen Changs and Robert Montgomerys, was held at the church on October 27. There was a family night supper and Dr. James R. Boyce and Mrs. Boyce, missionaries to Mexico spoke on their work. Christmas gifts of money were received and sent to the Changs and Montgomerys.

Our second annual Thanksgiving breakfast was observed at Yorkminster, followed by an informal worship service.

The annual Joy Gift program and Christmas Party was held on Sunday evening, December 15. In addition to the Joy Gift for our retired ministers gifts were received for distribution to poor families. Eight families were assisted during the Christmas season.

The choir sang the cantata, "Carol of Christmas", by J. W. Peterson at the morning worship service on December 22. The Lord's Supper was celebrated on Christmas Eve.

During the year there were 288 persons enrolled in the church school with 48 leaders. A pre-worship class for adults was started with Mr. Thompson teaching and also a college-age class was started. There are now five classes adults may attend.

1968 closed with Yorkminster looking expectantly to the new year and to worshipping in the new sanctuary.

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Joe D. Snyder, Jr., Historian,

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1968

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## ELDERS:

Harry E. Johns  
Harvey G. McComb  
John M. Quarles  
Edwin M. Russell  
W. Pratt Harris  
Arthur Henderson  
Albert Leslie  
John A. Parker  
Jack K. Adams  
Otis V. Stephens  
Joseph K. Taylor  
J. Ernest Warinner

**DEACONS:**

W. Edward Bruce, Jr.  
Robert C. Ingram  
Robert E. Little  
James T. Matthews  
Donald D. Figley  
Earl J. Gordon  
Edward C. Hill  
Raymond B. Pearce, Jr.  
Robert W. Fralich  
William B. Jones  
Martin T. Moul  
William V. Nunn, Jr.

## CHURCH SCHOOL:

Superintendent . . . . .	Max C. Kurbjun
Assistant Superintendent . . . . .	Roland H. Brown
Assistant Superintendent . . . . .	Fred W. Bowen
Secretary . . . . .	John W. Sundy
Chairman, Pre-School Division . . . . .	Mrs. W. E. Bruce
Chairman, Elementary Division . . . . .	J. T. Matthews
Chairman, Youth Division . . . . .	L. S. Keafer
Chairman, Adult Division . . . . .	Robert W. Fralich
Youth Advisors . . . . .	Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robertson, Mrs. John A. Parker

## NEW MEMBERS:

Major and Mrs. Ernest L. Stansell  
Mrs. G. T. Hickamn  
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Jackson  
Jacquelyn Adams  
Sarah Hall  
Nancy Nunn  
Stephen Hogge  
John Hogge  
Ronald Gordon  
Stuart Stephens  
Mrs. John Belvin  
Mrs. Joel D. Snyder, III  
Mr. & Mrs. G. G. Guillette  
Mr. Herman Bell  
Mrs. William Feller  
Dr. & Mrs. W. L. Threlkeld  
Mrs. W. J. B. Livingston  
Mr. & Mrs. Amos Spady, Jr.  
Susan Brown  
Katherine Collins  
Rebecca Collins

**NEW MEMBERS: (continued)**

John Copeland  
Mark Darnell  
Rosemary Driver  
Douglas Finch  
Virginia Henderson  
Russell Ingram  
Jonathan Leaman  
Carolyn Moul  
Ann Ponton  
John Quarles  
Margie Quarles  
Lorie Quarles  
Rhonda Rilee  
Edwin Russell, Jr.  
Bobby Saunders  
Nanette Saunders  
Eddie Seaman  
Diana Sundy  
Cathy Threlkeld  
Victor Yeates  
William Copeland  
Wayne Keafer

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1968

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MEMBERS DISMISSED:

James Brewer  
Randolph Leaman, III  
Joanna Stephens  
Mrs. William Speegle  
Sgt. and Mrs. David MacQueen

BAPTISMS:

John Copeland  
Rosemary Driver  
Douglas Finch  
Russell Ingram  
William Copeland  
Wayne Keafer  
Donna Lynn Lovelace  
Nancy Cumming Parker  
Tracy Michelle Wilson  
Kendall Lynn Garrett  
Karen Sue Ponton  
Jeffrey Bruce Snead

MEMBERS LOST BY DEATH:

J. Robert Turnage  
Theodore R. Creel, Sr.  
Col. J. Robert Bailey

BIRTHS:

Cynthia Lea Carter  
Karen Sue Ponton  
Kendall Lynn Garrett  
Tracie Michelle Wilson  
Jeffrey Bruce Snead  
Martha Bratton Robertson

- February 18, 1968  
- March 18, 1968  
- April 7, 1968  
- May 3, 1968  
- June 11, 1968  
- November 8, 1968

MARRIAGES:

Sharon Nichols and Joel D. Snyder, III  
First Christian Church  
Hopewell, Virginia  
June 8, 1968

Patricia Louise Glass and Robert E. Little, Jr.  
Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church  
Alexandria, Virginia  
June 29, 1968

Betty Jo Poole and Zeno David Smith  
City Road Methodist Church  
Elizabeth City, North Carolina  
June 14, 1968

Barbara Cecelia Belvin and Jerry Webb Almond  
Yorkminster Presbyterian Church  
Grafton, Virginia  
November 2, 1968

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY  
YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
1969

1969 was a year of continued growth for Yorkminster. The number of communicants on roll increased from 496 to 548 and there were 22 professions of faith. Total contributions increased from \$67,192 in 1968 to \$83,526 in 1969.

Attendance records for a single service at Yorkminster, except Easter Sunday, were set with 301 at worship on January 28 and that record broken with 306 for worship on March 4.

On January 14 Circle 4 of the Women of the Church met at the Zuni Home for Retarded Boys. On February 23 Mr. Anderson, Director of the Home, was the speaker at a family night supper and told of the work being done there. Another family night supper was held on March 16 and the speakers were Miss Janet Douglas and Mr. Mike Spence of Yorkminster who spoke on the Norfolk Presbytery 1968 Caravan to Mexico that they had been a part of and told what a meaningful experience it had been for them.

The community-wide World Day of Prayer service was held at Yorkminster on March 7. Yorkminster's Mrs. Threlkeld was the speaker and told of her experience as a missionary in the Congo.

Holy Week began with choir presenting the cantata, "Hallelujah! What A Savior!", by Peterson at the morning worship service on Palm Sunday, March 30. In the evening the Reverend Richard S. Ruggles, pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Norfolk, Virginia, began a series of special nightly services continuing through Wednesday night. As a seminary student Mr. Ruggles made a survey of the area leading to the chartering of Yorkminster. Mr. Thompson conducted the final service of the week on Thursday evening and the Lord's Supper was celebrated. On Easter Sunday worship services were held at eight-thirty and ten o'clock in the morning with a total attendance of 377.

The Sunday following Easter marked a milestone in the life of Yorkminster. After five years of study and planning and a year under construction, the sanctuary was ready for occupancy. The first worship service was held in the sanctuary on April 13. The sanctuary was dedicated on May 11 at the morning worship service and the cornerstone laying and an open house was held in the afternoon. About the only thing missing was the steeple, and the numerous delays before it was finally in place became a community joke. But the sanctuary was worshipful and beautiful and a happy culmination of much effort by many members of Yorkminster. To God be the glory!

On April 26 a workshop for youth leaders was conducted by the Rev. Robert Crutchfield, pastor of Hilton Presbyterian Church. On May 10 and 11 the young people held a retreat at Makemie Woods returning in time for the dedication of the sanctuary.

The Women of the Church held their annual birthday celebration on the evening of May 18. There was a family night supper followed by a talk and slides by Yorkminster's Dr. Threlkeld covering his missionary experiences in the Congo.

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1969

Page 2

In March the Commitment Committee established a visitation program and reported that ten men were participating in July.

On May 25 Yorkminster elected the following ruling elders and deacons in the Class of 1972:

Elders - Mrs. James T. Matthews  
Mr. W. Edward Bruce, Jr.  
Mr. Harvey G. McComb, Jr.  
Mr. Harry E. Johns

Deacons - Dr. William L. Threlkeld  
Mr. Lloyd S. Keafer, Jr.  
Mr. Walter I. Akers  
Mr. Richard S. Morgan

In the fall three more deacons were elected to increase the number of deacons from twelve to fifteen. The following were elected:

Mr. Claude W. Milam  
Mr. Thomas P. Palmer  
Mr. Joel D. Snyder, III

Mrs. Matthews is the first woman elected an officer in Yorkminster Church.

The Family Bible Institute was held July 20-25.

A covered dish supper on October 26 honored members received during the year and a stewardship film was shown. On November 23 the Christmas party for missionaries was held. A covered dish supper was followed by a talk by the Rev. Louis Sandos, new missionary to Mexico. Cash gifts were presented by those in attendance for forwarding to the Stephen Changs in Brazil and the Robert L. Montgomerys in Taiwan. On Thanksgiving morning the annual breakfast was served and a brief worship service followed.

On December 14 the annual Christmas party and Joy Gift Program was held. A pageant was presented by the Junior Highs under the direction of Mrs. Ellery F. Calkin. On December 21 the choir presented "The Story of the Nativity" in narration and carols at the morning worship. On Christmas Eve the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

During the year special music was heard on several occasions. The York High Choraliers sang for the worship service on May 25. There were two organ recitals given by accomplished musicians whose presence was arranged by the firm from whom the organ was purchased. The organists were Mr. Barry Carmack of the Armed Forces School of Music and organist at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Norfolk, and Mr. Robert A. Daffer, organist at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church at Columbia, Maryland.

At year's end Yorkminster looked forward expectantly to the decade of the Seventies.

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1969

Page 3

Pastor . . . . . John H. Thompson  
Treasurer . . . . . Donald D. Pigley  
Financial Secretary . . . . . William B. Jones

ELDERS:

W. Pratt Harris  
Arthur Henderson  
Albert Leslie  
John A. Parker  
Jack K. Adams  
Otis V. Stephens  
Joseph K. Taylor  
J. E. Warinner  
Cowles Hogge  
Robert C. Ingram  
Samuel C. Morgan  
Joe D. Snyder, Jr.

DEACONS:

Donald D. Pigley  
Earl J. Gordon  
Edward C. Hill  
R. B. Pearce, Jr.  
Robert W. Fralich  
William B. Jones  
Martin T. Moul  
William V. Nunn, Jr.  
Wayne L. Darnell  
Henry M. Edge  
Donald L. Ewton  
Thomas W. Finch

CHURCH SCHOOL:

Superintendent . . . . . Roland H. Brown  
Assistant Superintendent . . . . . Fred W. Bowen  
Chairman Pre-School Division . . . . . Mrs. W. E. Bruce  
Chairman Elementary Division . . . . . Mrs. H. G. McComb  
Chairman Adult Division . . . . . Mrs. Hamilton Cumming

NEW MEMBERS:

Maj. & Mrs. E. F. Calkin  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Murrow  
Cindy Murrow  
Nancy Murrow  
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Sheriff  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon L. Bell  
Janet Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Phillips  
Mr. & Mrs. John Gambill  
Mrs. P. W. Michael  
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Milam  
Jeff Milam  
Vicki Milam  
Lessye Threlkeld  
Donna Southall  
Donald O'Neal  
David O'Neal  
William Parker  
Donald L. Ewton, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. L. W. Pankey  
Maj. & Mrs. J. O. Northridge  
Mrs. Mitchell Bertram

NEW MEMBERS (continued)

Eric Bertram  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. King  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen L. Fox  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rhinehart  
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Ferguson  
James Atkins  
Robert Atkins  
Jay Barbee  
Diane Fetterman  
Barbara Ann Fralich  
Bruce Knox  
Mike Parker  
Amy Stephens  
Mel Barbee  
Steve Grantham  
Julie Jones  
Carolyn McIntosh  
Sharon Spivey  
Gary Thomas  
Mrs. David E. Fetterman  
Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Haskett

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1969

Page 4

BAPTISMS:

Donna Southall  
Eric Bertram  
James Atkins  
Robert Atkins  
Mel Barbee  
Steve Grantham  
Julie Jones  
Carolyn McIntosh  
Sharon Spivey  
Gary Thomas  
Jeffry Bruce Snead  
Kenneth John Van Riper  
Jennifer Rae Pearce  
Robert Kirk Rhinehart  
Robert Anderson Ferguson

MEMBERS DISMISSED:

Mrs. Anne Snyder Buchanan  
Mrs. James M. Castner

MEMBERS LOST BY DEATH:

William C. Hogge, Jr.

BIRTHS:

Maynard Randolph Wilson	- February 26, 1969
Jennifer Rae Pearce	- March 4, 1969
James Christopher Kohl	- May 23, 1969
Bruce Gantt Buchanan	- August 28, 1969
James Arthur Foard	- October 4, 1969
Cheryl Amelia King	- November 1, 1969
Susan Jennifer Montgomery	- November 5, 1969

MARRIAGES:

Brenda Lou Buchanan and Cary Epes  
Yorkminster Presbyterian Church  
February 17, 1969

Elwood Douglas and Barbara Klunder  
Ocean View Christian Reformed Church  
Norfolk, Virginia  
June 14, 1969

Nancy Diehl and Ward W. Deems  
Wren Chapel, William and Mary  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
June 28, 1969

Marguerite Cumming and Richard Newman  
Yorkminster Presbyterian Church  
August 30, 1969

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1969

Page 5

BUILDING PLANNING COUNCIL:

Thomas C. Spence, Chairman  
Arthur Henderson  
Joe Snyder  
Margaret Matthews  
Harry Johns  
John Yeates

BUILDING COMMITTEE:

Harry Johns, Chairman  
Margaret Matthews  
John Yeates

ARCHITECTS: Brooks and Womack, Richmond, Virginia

CONTRACTOR: George Ivins and Company, Inc., Newport News, Virginia

SUB-COMMITTEES OF BUILDING COMMITTEE:

Colors - Mrs. Ramsay Knox, Mrs. John Quarles  
Organ - Mrs. Arthur Henderson, Mrs. B. L. Barnes, Mrs. Ambert Dail  
Landscaping - William Nunn, Kenneth Ackerly  
Memorials - Mrs. Kenneth Ackerly, Mrs. Cowles Hogge  
Finance - Ernest Warinner, Edward Bruce, James Matthews, Donald Figley  
Cornerstone - Mrs. Joe Snyder, Mrs. Edward Bruce

DEDICATION COMMITTEE:

Joe D. Snyder, Jr.  
Charlie Menges  
Mrs. Robert E. Little  
Otis V. Stephens  
Mrs. F. Ambert Dail  
Mrs. Bobbie L. Barnes

DEDICATION SUB-COMMITTEES:

Invitations - Sarah Atkins  
Drapery and Curtains - Lelia Douglas, Ann Rae O'Neal  
Hostesses - Myrtle Stephens, Jean Finch, Marie McIntosh,  
Nan Jones, Veta Moul

ITEMS IN CORNERSTONE OF NEW SANCTUARY:

History of the Church  
1969 Yearbook  
Newsletters - First one printed - October 18, 1961  
Most recent - May 6, 1969  
Brochure of Church Dedication  
Pictures of Ground Breaking  
Bulletin of Ground Breaking - April 7, 1968  
Guidelines of Yorkminster  
Brochure and Bulletin of Stewardship Dinner  
Tidewater Presbyterians - Issue with article of Meeting in Courthouse  
Issue with article of Mr. Van Dyke's arrival  
Issue with article of Mr. Thompson's arrival  
Bond Program  
Bulletins - Organization of church - Aug. 14, 1955  
Dr. Harrop arrives - Sept. 30, 1955  
First Service - May 11, 1958

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1969

Page 6

ITEMS IN CORNERSTONE OF NEW SANCTUARY (continued)

Dedication first building - Aug. 17, 1958  
Dr. Harrop's Death  
Thanksgiving Service  
Dedication of Educational Building  
Invitation to Church Dedication - Aug. 17, 1958  
May 11, 1969  
Current Worship Bulletin - April 13, 1969  
Front pages of "Daily Press" May 8, 9, 10 and 11, 1969  
Page of fashions from "Daily Press"  
1920 Scottish Coin  
Two articles from "Daily Press" about building and dedication

MEMORIAL GIFTS:

Stained Glass Window	- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P. Palmer
Communion Table	- Mr. & Mrs. Jon W. Grimes
Communion Plates	- Mr. & Mrs. W. Cowles Hogge
Pulpit	- Women of the Church
Lights, Outside	- Harrop's Memorial
Gifts & Memorials Book	- Anonymous
Baptismal Font	- Anonymous
Pulpit Bible	- The Rev. Richard Ruggles
Bible Stand	- Children of Yorkminster Church
Offering Plates	- Mr. & Mrs. William R. Benvie
Organ Fund	- Mrs. Robert L. Hansford
Organ Recital Fund	- Mrs. Charlotte Henderson

Pews -

Mr. & Mrs. K. W. Ackerly	Mr. & Mrs. W. Pratt Harris
Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Adams	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Atkinson	Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Hill
Mrs. J. Robert Bailey	Mr. & Mrs. W. Cowles Hogge
Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Barnes	Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Johns
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Brown	Mr. & Mrs. William B. Jones
Mrs. S. Minson Cooke	Mrs. Ernest Johnson
Mrs. Theodore R. Creel, Sr.	Mr. & Mrs. E. William Johnson
Mrs. Hamilton Cumming	Mr. & Mrs. William P. Knox, Jr.
Curlee Memorial	Dr. & Mrs. William P. Knox, III
Mr. & Mrs. F. Ambert Dail	Mr. & Mrs. James T. Matthews
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne L. Darnell	Mr. & Mrs. Harvey G. McComb, Jr.
Mrs. Herbert M. Dickinson	Mrs. Martin J. Menges
Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Dreier	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel C. Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Henry M. Edge	Mr. & Mrs. Martin T. Moul
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Finch	Mr. & Mrs. C. Lear Ponton
Mr. & Mrs. Earl J. Gordon	Mr. & Mrs. J. Ernest Warinner, III
Mr. & Mrs. G. G. Guillette	Mr. & Mrs. John E. Yeates, Jr.
Mr. Ernest T. Harris, Jr.	

Hymnals -

Mrs. Walter Olstad	Mrs. G. T. Hickman
Mrs. Robert Brown	Mr. & Mrs. Lewis C. Rilee, Sr.
Mrs. George J. Heimerl	Mr. Lewis C. Rilee, Jr.
Maj. & Mrs. E. L. Stansell and Family	Miss Rhonda Rilee

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY  
YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
1970

1970 saw a slackening in the rate of growth at Yorkminster. The number of communicants on roll dropped from 548 to 516 due to the transfer of 36 persons to the inactive roll. Total gifts for the year were \$85,899, compared to \$83,526 in 1969.

In January Ruling Elder Joe D. Snyder, Jr. and Deacon Martin T. Moul were appointed to work with other local churches to investigate the starting of a Child Care Center in York County. The Child Care Center would provide a place where children could be cared for during the day to enable parents to work and hopefully, become self-supporting. Mrs. William Threlkeld of Yorkminster is the moving spirit behind the Child Care Center effort.

A new look in recreation at Yorkminster was seen in a square dance held in the Fellowship Hall on February 21. A number of couples took part and Mr. Richard Douglas called.

Mr. James F. Van Dyke, former minister at Yorkminster, was the speaker for Holy Week services. Mr. Van Dyke spoke five times from Palm Sunday morning to Wednesday night and there were many other informal gatherings. Many old acquaintances were renewed during the four days. The Lord's Supper was celebrated on Thursday evening with Mr. Thompson in charge. The week was climaxed with the worship service on Easter Sunday morning attended by 376.

April 12 was Higher Education Emphasis Sunday. It was noted that there are 27 Yorkminster members as students in 19 colleges.

On Saturday night April 25 a covered dish supper was held. The Rev. Robert Pate, Missionary to Brazil, was our guest speaker and spoke on the missionary effort in Brazil. Mr. Pate preached at the worship service on Sunday morning.

The congregational retreat was held at Makemie Woods on Sunday, May 3.

On Sunday, June 7, thirteen Yorkminster 1970 high school graduates were recognized during the worship service.

Yorkminster had a musical treat on July 12 in an organ recital by Mr. Tommy Marshall, York County student and substitute organist.

The regular Family Bible Institute was held the week of August 2 with classes for all ages. There were 126 participating. On August 16 the fifteenth anniversary of the chartering of Yorkminster was celebrated with a picnic on the church lawn following the morning services. On August 18 and 19 the Women of the Church made draperies for the Zuni Home.

The Youth Club, a new program for grades 4 through 8 was inaugurated on Wednesday, October 15. The program will consist of dinner, recreation and study from 4:15 to 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday through May. Sixty-two youngsters were enrolled.

On October 18 the Women of the Church gave a choral litany at the 58th Annual Fall Conference, Peninsula District, Group I of the Women of the Church, which was held at the Second Presbyterian Church in Newport News.

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
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On November 1 our missionaries, the Stephen Changs and the Robert L. Montgomerys, were honored with a covered dish supper and Christmas program. An offering of \$340 and an additional \$70 from the Women of the Church was sent to the Board of World Missions as a Christmas present for the Changs and Montgomerys.

The Every Member Canvass was climaxed with Dedication Sunday on November 8. Members came to the church in the afternoon to make their pledges and enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshments.

The annual Thanksgiving Breakfast was held on Thanksgiving morning and followed by a worship service in the sanctuary with Mr. Harry Johns, Chairman of the Worship Committee, in charge. The Thanksgiving Breakfast is rapidly becoming a big event on the Yorkminster calendar.

The annual Christmas Party and Joy Gift Program was held on December 13. There was a program of carol singing and scripture readings. Gifts of food were brought for distribution to poor families and the Joy Gift offering for Ministerial Relief was taken. The offering exceeded \$600.

The Choir presented a Christmas Cantata at the morning worship hour on December 20. In the evening the Senior Highs presented a program of carols and scripture readings.

The Lord's Supper was celebrated on Christmas Eve.

The closing event for the year was the dinner at the Church for the college students.

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Joe D. Snyder, Jr., Historian

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1970

• Page 3

Pastor . . . . . John H. Thompson  
Treasurer . . . . . Amos A. Spady, Jr.  
Financial Secretary . . . . . William B. Jones

ELDERS:

Jack K. Adams  
Otis V. Stephens  
Joseph K. Taylor  
J. Ernest Warinner  
W. Cowles Hogge  
Robert C. Ingram  
Samuel C. Morgan  
Joe D. Snyder, Jr.  
W. Edward Bruce  
Harry E. Johns  
Mrs. Margaret Matthews  
Harvey G. McComb

DEACONS

Robert W. Fralich  
William B. Jones  
Martin T. Moul  
William V. Nunn, Jr.  
Thomas P. Palmer  
Wayne L. Darnell  
Henry M. Edge  
Donald L. Ewton  
Thomas W. Finch  
Claude W. Milam  
Walter I. Akers  
Lloyd S. Keafer  
Richard S. Morgan  
Joel Snyder, III  
William L. Threlkeld

CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent . . . . . Roland H. Brown  
Assistant Superintendent . . . . . Fred W. Bowen  
Chairman Pre-School Division . . . . Mrs. W. E. Bruce  
Chairman Elementary Division . . . . Mrs. H. G. McComb  
Chairman Youth Division . . . . Mrs. W. L. Threlkeld  
Chairman Adult Division . . . . Samuel C. Morgan

NEW MEMBERS:

Mr. & Mrs. James D. Birch  
Linda Fox  
Merilee Fox  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Geary  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Boozer  
Mr. & Mrs. Haines Miller  
Mr. Vance Nunn  
Mr. & Mrs. John Van Riper

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Savedge  
Mrs. Linda Simpson Barfield  
Mr. & Mrs. James G. Ware  
Samuel Leroy Keffer  
Mary Ann Ward

MEMBERS DISMISSED:

Steven Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Collins  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P. Palmer  
Steven Palmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Atkinson  
Karen Atkinson

MEMBERS LOST BY DEATH:

James E. Buchanan  
John A. Butyn

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1970

Page 4

BAPTISMS:

Zeno David Smith, Jr.  
James Arthur Foard  
Melissa Jean Mandrona  
Tammie Lynn Almond  
Donald Lewis Savedge  
Daniel Read Quarles

BIRTHS:

Frederick Edward Wilson	- February 27, 1970
Tammie Lynn Almond	- March 1, 1970
Son - Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hardin	- April 20, 1970
Daniel Read Quarles	- April 26, 1970
Kelly Rebecca Garrett	- November 22, 1970

MARRIAGES:

Kenneth Owens  
Ann Jennings  
August 1, 1970

Barry Strawberry Byrd  
Vicki Lynn Finch  
October 31, 1970

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY  
YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1971

1971 ended with 550 communicants on roll as compared to 516 at the end of 1970. There were 21 professions of faith and one reaffirmation. There were four adult baptisms. Total gifts increased from \$85,889 to \$86,956.

A School of Missions began with a poverty dinner on January 24. Mrs. Polly Miller, missionary to the Congo was the speaker. The School continued for the five following Sunday evenings with the emphasis on world hunger. Also in January there was an overnight retreat for seventh and eighth graders at the church on January 22. There was a covered dish supper and a program of spiritual reflection and recreation.

On March 28, the Rev. Zolton Phillips of the Village Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia was in the pulpit. It was a homecoming of sorts for Zolton and his wife, Sue, as Zolton served Yorkminster every other Sunday as temporary supply following Dr. Harrop's death in December 1961 until Mr. Van Dyke's arrival in June 1962. Sue frequently accompanied Zolton then but the children have been added.

Holy Week was a time of special services beginning with the morning worship on Palm Sunday. Dr. Wade P. Huie, Professor of Homiletics at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia preached Sunday morning and each night through Wednesday and also spoke to many small groups while here. The Lord's Supper was celebrated on Thursday evening. The Senior High Youth presented "Jesus Christ Superstar" on Friday evening. The April Session Meeting noted that the Holy Week services were not very well attended and some different plans would be made for Holy Week in 1972.

Beginning in May the practice of taking a special offering for the poor each Communion Sunday was instituted with the proceeds to go to the Deacon's Fund, the York County Volunteer Association or to Halt Hunger. Special envelopes were provided. The Women of the Church met jointly in May with the Women of Denbigh Presbyterian Church for their annual birthday celebration of the Women of the Church. The Session voted to send a child on welfare to Church Camp.

Also in May the Session voted to reinstate the taking of an offering each Sunday in the Church School classes. It was also noted in the Session minutes that three young men of Yorkminster, Buster Johns, Steve Parker and Jimmy Snyder, were seriously considering the gospel ministry as their life work. A request was made to Yorkminster families to have a home prayer meeting at some time each Monday. Mr. John D. Williams, representative of the Gideons, was given ten to fifteen minutes during a Sunday morning worship service to speak on the work of the Gideons.

On June 6 we recognized our High School graduates at the morning worship service and, as in past years, each one was presented with the first volume of the "Layman's Bible Commentary."

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
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Mrs. Dottie Barnes who had directed the Yorkminster choir since 1962 resigned in June. Special music was provided during the summer by different soloists. In September Mrs. Charlotte Williams became the Yorkminster Choir Director. Mrs. Williams is a graduate of the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey and has directed local choirs including Wythe Presbyterian and First Baptist in Newport News.

Layman's Sunday was celebrated on July 25. The service was led throughout by laymen. Witness speaker was Jimmy Snyder and Elder Joseph K. Taylor brought the message.

Our support missionaries, the Stephen Changs, were dropped by the Board of World Missions. Yorkminster will be supporting the Rev. Moon K. Whong and his family, missionaries to Brazil, in the future. Mr. Whong is a native of Korea and member of Norfolk Presbytery. Mrs. Whong is the former Miss Dixie Rost of Rochelle, Virginia. They have three children. Mr. and Mrs. Whong minister to the large Korean population in Sao Paulo. The Whongs will be on leave and living in Richmond, Virginia for the coming year.

In September there was promotion day in the Church School. The Women of the Church held their annual meeting and installed new officers and the Youth Club began its second year with a maximum enrollment of sixty.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile was at Yorkminster in October. Worldwide Communion was celebrated the first Sunday in October with Dr. W. J. B. Livingston in the pulpit. The Every Member Canvass got underway with cottage meetings in twenty-four homes of the congregation. The Eighth Grade Church School Class planned to give a Christmas Party for underprivileged children.

In November the annual Christmas Party for our missionaries was celebrated with a covered dish supper. The Whongs were present. The party resulted in a gift of \$260 shared by our two missionary families, the Whongs and the Montgomerys. An innovation in officer training was tried with a training session at Makemie Woods on a Saturday and Dr. John MacLeod, Executive Secretary of Norfolk Presbytery, spoke to the officers on denominational issues. The Fifth Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast and Worship Service was attended by 175 people.

On December 12 the annual Family Christmas Program was held and the Joy Gift Offering received. Yorkminster participated in the local Toys for Tots Program and gifts of food were given to poor families being presently helped by the Church. For the morning worship on December 19 the choir presented the cantata, "Dawn of Redeeming Grace," by Robert Graham with all solo parts by members of Yorkminster. In the evening the Senior High Youth presented a special musical program featuring the York High Choral Group and afterward the Senior Highs visited Patrick Henry Hospital and sang Christmas carols. The Lord's Supper was celebrated on Christmas Eve. The last event of the year was the annual dinner on December 29 to honor our college students.

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1971

Page 3

At the close of 1971 Yorkminster could look back and thank God for many blessings and look forward expectantly to 1972.

Joe D. Snyder, Jr., Historian

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
YEAR 1971

Page 4

Pastor . . . . . John H. Thompson  
Treasurer . . . . . Amos A. Spady, Jr.  
Financial Secretary . . . . Harold N. Murrow

ELDERS:

W. Cowles Hogge  
Robert C. Ingram  
Samuel C. Morgan  
Joe D. Snyder, Jr.  
W. Edward Bruce  
Harry E. Johns  
Mrs. Margaret Matthews  
Harvey G. McComb  
W. Pratt Harris  
Arthur Henderson  
William P. Knox., Jr.  
Martin T. Moul  
John E. Yeates

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Wayne L. Darnell  
Henry M. Edge  
Donald L. Ewton  
Thomas W. Finch  
Claude W. Milam  
Walter I. Akers  
Lloyd S. Keafer  
Richard S. Morgan  
Joel Snyder, III  
William L. Threlkeld  
Uriel M. Lovelace  
Earl J. Gordon  
Max C. Kurbjun  
Harold N. Murrow  
Amos A. Spady, Jr.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent . . . . . Roland H. Brown  
Chairman Pre-School Division . . Mrs. W. E. Bruce  
Chairman Elementary Division . . Mrs. John Sundy  
Chairman Youth Division . . Mrs. W. L. Threlkeld  
Chairman Adult Division . . . . Samuel C. Morgan

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Greenway	Douglas Murrow
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Houser	Barbara Pearce
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Morris	John Russell
Mary Patricia Morris	Jeanne Quarles
Mr. & Mrs. Donald W. Smith	Dana Stansell
Col. & Mrs. George Francisco	Timmy Sundy
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hofler	Amy Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hawkins	Andy Weddle
Steve Hawkins	Donald Witt
Boyd Jones	Lance Yeates
Lauren Olstad	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Graham
Frank Driver	Rhonda Lou Sweeney
Alice Bertram	Mr. & Mrs. John Shideler
Tommy Collins	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Tibbals
Tom McComb	Mrs. Charles H. Capps
John Moore	Mr. & Mrs. Austin Bartee
Nancy Moul	

YORKMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRAFTON, VIRGINIA  
HISTORY OF THE CHURCH  
1971

Page 5

BAPTISMS:

Kelly Rebecca Garrett  
Kelly Slade Todd  
Stephen Eugene Hawkins  
Frank Cornelius Driver  
Alice Belinda Bertram  
Jane Ann Snead  
Joseph Robert Snead  
Cynthia Lynn Snead  
Kerri Ann Rhinehart  
Jennifer Leigh Snyder  
Christopher Todd Bartee  
Jennifer Paige Bartee  
Billie Vaughn Spence, III  
Gregory Brant McClinton

MEMBERS DISMISSED:

Mrs. J. R. Turnage  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wilson  
Mrs. Randolph Wilson  
Mrs. Barbara Allmond  
Mrs. Randolph Leaman  
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Parker  
Michael Parker  
William H. Parker

BIRTHS:

Kerri Ann Rhinehart - January 4, 1971  
Cynthia Lynn Snead - March 2, 1971  
Jennifer Leigh Snyder - July 21, 1971  
Cary Barclay Epes, Jr. - September 1971  
Andrew Wayne Smith - November 8, 1971

MARRIAGES:

Samuel Leroy Keffler  
Linda Simpson Barfield  
June 26, 1971

Keith William Maurer  
Karen Virginia Morgan  
August 14, 1971

Ray Jones  
Helen Jennings  
August 13, 1971

John H. Thompson, Jr.  
Connie Rae Bloxom  
September 4, 1971

John Kosek  
Debbie Harris  
November 10, 1971